IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a computer using at least one video image of a plurality of video images, the method comprising:

    (a) capturing n video streams, n being an integer of at least two, the n video streams each comprising a plurality of video frames and each of the n video streams comprising video of a different user;

    (b) determining a location of an object in at least one of the n video streams;

    (c) controlling a program executing on the computer based on the location of the object;

    (d) combining, at a single computer, the n video streams with a user interface stream generated by [[the]] a computer operating system, thereby forming a composite video stream;

    (e) providing the composite video stream for display to each of the different users; and

    (f) displaying the composite video stream.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein capturing n video streams includes receiving a live video signal of a user generated by a video camera.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein capturing n video streams includes receiving a stored video signal from a video storage device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein determining the location an object in at least one of the n video streams includes:

    (a) searching for a predetermined color in one of the n video streams;

(b)   in response to locating the predetermined color, identifying an occurrence of the predetermined color having the largest area; and

(c)   determining coordinates of the center of the occurrence of the predetermined color having the largest area.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein controlling a program executing on the computer based on the location of the object comprises:

(a)   analyzing motion of the object in successive video frames to determine presence of a control event; and

(b)   controlling the program based on the control event.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein each of the n video streams comprises an image of a different computer user, the object comprises an object associated with the user's hand, and the control event comprises a pointer movement event.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein each of the n video streams comprises an image of a different computer user, the object comprises an object located in the user's hand, and the control event comprises a mouse click event.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein combining the n video streams with the user interface stream generated by the computer operating system includes horizontally reversing frames of the n video streams to produce a mirror image of the frames of the n video streams.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein combining the n video streams with the user interface stream generated by the computer operating system includes transparently overlaying the user interface stream on the n video streams.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein combining the n video streams with the user interface stream generated by the computer operating system includes transparently overlaying the n video streams on the user interface stream.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein combining the n video streams with the user interface stream generated by the computer operating system includes:

    (a) adjusting a transparency level of at least one of the user interface stream and the n video streams; and

    (b) generating the composite stream from the user interface stream and the n video streams.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein adjusting the transparency level includes dynamically adjusting the transparency level.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the composite video stream includes projecting the composite video stream.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for combining a plurality of video images, each containing an image of a user, with a computer desktop interface, the method comprising:

    (a) capturing n video streams, n being an integer of at least two, each video stream comprising a plurality of frames and each video stream comprising video of a different user;

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(b)   transparently combining, at a single computer, the n video streams with a computer desktop generated by [[the]] a computer operating system, thereby forming a composite video stream;

(c)   providing the composite video stream for display to each of the different users; and

(d)   displaying the composite video stream, wherein the composite image includes transparent images of the users displayed with the computer desktop.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein capturing the n video streams includes receiving a live video signal generated by a video camera.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein combining the n video streams with the user interface stream generated by the computer operating system includes horizontally reversing frames of the n video streams to produce a mirror image of the frames of the n video streams.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein combining the n video streams with the user interface stream generated by the computer operating system includes:

(a)   adjusting a transparency level of at least one of the user interface stream and the n video streams; and

(b)   generating the composite stream from the user interface stream and the n video streams.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein adjusting the transparency level includes dynamically adjusting the transparency level.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein displaying the composite video stream includes projecting the composite video stream.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein displaying the composite video stream includes displaying the composite video stream on a non-projection computer display device.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein displaying the composite video stream includes displaying a mirror image of each user with the desktop.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 comprising controlling objects on the desktop in response to movement of at least one of the user images.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein controlling objects on the desktop includes moving objects on the desktop.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein controlling objects on the desktop includes activating programs associated with objects on the desktop.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the desktop comprises the desktop of a computer local to at least one of the users.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the desktop comprises the desktop of a computer remote from at least one of the users.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein each of the plurality of video streams includes an image of a different user.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 comprising controlling desktop objects in response to movement of user images in any of the video streams.

31.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a set of computer-executable instructions, the set of instructions comprising:

    (a)   n video stream capturing routines, n being an integer of at least two, each of the video stream capturing routines for capturing a different video stream, each video stream comprising a plurality of video frames and each video stream comprising an image of a different user;

    (b)   a video frame analysis routine for determining a location of an object in at least some of the plurality of video frames;

    (c)   a driver for controlling a program executing on the computer based on the location of the object;

    (d)   a video compositing routine for combining, at a single computer, the n video streams with a user interface stream generated by [[the]] a computer operating system, thereby forming a composite video stream and for providing the composite video stream for display to each of the n users; and

    (e)   a video display routine for displaying the composite video stream.

32.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the user interface driving routine comprises:

    (a)   instructions for searching for a predetermined color in at least one of the n video streams;

    (b)   instructions for identifying an occurrence of the predetermined color having a largest area; and

    (c)   instructions for determining the coordinates of the center of the occurrence of the predetermined color having the largest area.

33.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the video compositing routine comprises:

(a)   instructions for adjusting the transparency level of at least one of the user interface stream and the n video streams; and

(b)   instructions for generating the composite stream from the user interface stream and the n video streams.

34.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the video compositing routine comprises instructions for horizontally reversing images of the n video streams to produce a mirror image of the images of the n video streams.

35.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

(a)   receiving n video images, n being an integer of at least two, each video image including video of a different computer user;

(b)   combining, at a single computer, the n video images with a computer desktop image;

(c)   providing the combined image for display to each of the different users;

(d)   displaying the combined image;

(e)   tracking a portion of at least one of the n video images in the combined image; and

(f)   manipulating objects in the desktop image based on the tracked portion.

36.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein manipulating objects includes highlighting the objects.

37.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein manipulating objects includes moving the objects.

38.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein manipulating objects includes activating programs associated with the objects.

39.   (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:

(a)   a display device;

(b)   n video cameras for producing n video streams, n being an integer of at least two, each video stream including video of a different user; and

(c)   a processing unit operatively coupled to the display device and the n video cameras, wherein the processing unit is adapted to:

(i)   receive the n video streams, combine the n video streams into a composite video stream including the video of the different users and provide the composite video stream for display to the different users;

(ii)   determine a location of a predetermined object associated with a user in at least one of the plurality of video frames; and

(iii)   control execution of a program based on the location of the object.

40.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39 wherein the n video cameras are each positioned to produce a video stream including an image of a different user.

41.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the different users comprise collaborators in a distributed computer programming task.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the program comprises a collaborative desktop application.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the collaborative desktop application allows each user to control his or her own mouse pointer on a shared desktop.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least some of the users are in different locations and wherein the program comprises a distributed computer programming application.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the different users comprise collaborators in distributed computer programming task.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein each of the n video streams comprises an image of a different user.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 46 wherein at least some of the users are in different locations.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 47 wherein the different users comprise collaborators in a distributed computer programming task.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein each video image includes an image of a different user.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 49 wherein the different users comprise collaborators in a distributed computer programming task.